

# ACTION

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# TIME FUSE

*Stand by for an onslaught of action-packed thrills*

# WAR PICTURE LIBRARY SPECIAL EXTRA

*4 gripping stories in one 224-page bumper special 3/-*

## THE LIONHEARTS

He drove men ruthlessly in preparation for the day of battle—for it would only be the strong who survived.

## CODE OF HONOUR

Only an officer's courage and leadership can earn him the respect of the men serving under him.

## MISSION FOR HEROES

It was a task only the toughest could handle, yet it was an ordinary seaman who stood between the three VCs and failure.

## DIRECT HIT

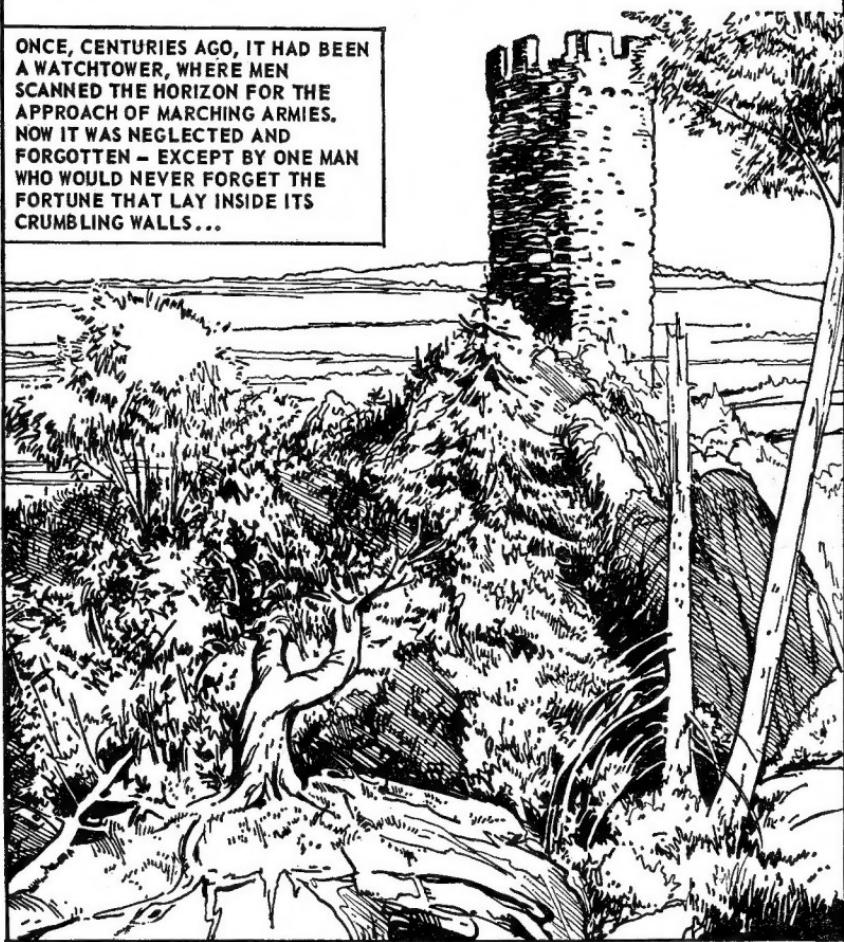
They flew together—each man drawing on the courage of the other—each wondering who would be first to break.

*Don't miss it... it's on sale Friday August 21*



# Time Fuse

ONCE, CENTURIES AGO, IT HAD BEEN A WATCHTOWER, WHERE MEN SCANNED THE HORIZON FOR THE APPROACH OF MARCHING ARMIES. NOW IT WAS NEGLECTED AND FORGOTTEN - EXCEPT BY ONE MAN WHO WOULD NEVER FORGET THE FORTUNE THAT LAY INSIDE ITS CRUMBLING WALLS...



THE DAY COMMANDER PAUL JONES WAS INVALIDED OUT OF THE NAVY, HE BEGAN THE TASK OF CARING FOR OTHERS WHO LIKE HIMSELF HAD BEEN DISABLED.



LESLIE CRAIG, THE COMMANDER'S CHIEF INSTRUCTOR AT THE HOME FOR HANDICAPPED BOYS, WAS ENJOYING THE EARLY MORNING SUNSHINE WHEN HE HEARD A SHOUT FROM THE HOUSE...



JOE RATCLIFFE HAD SERVED WITH THE COMMANDER DURING THE WAR, NOW HE TOO HAD JOINED THE STAFF OF THE COMMANDER'S HOME...



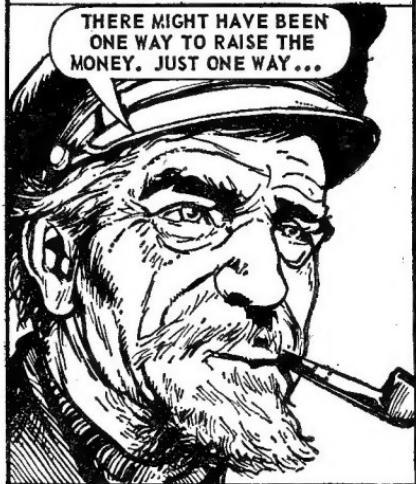


LES CRAIG LOOKED OUT OF THE WINDOW AT THE BOYS IN THE GROUNDS. HE DID NOT RELISH THE TASK OF TELLING THEM THE NEWS...



COMMANDER JONES KNEW HOW LES FELT. ALL THE YEARS OF WORK GONE FOR NOTHING. AND YET...

THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONE WAY TO RAISE THE MONEY. JUST ONE WAY...



AT THE COMMANDER'S WORDS, LES TURNED EAGERLY FROM THE WINDOW...

THEN WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT?



LES CRAIG SLEPT BADLY THAT NIGHT AND A SUDDEN SOUND AT ABOUT 2 a.m. WOKE HIM UP WITH A JERK.

IT CAME FROM DOWNSTAIRS!



AS LES WENT DOWN THE STAIRS, HE COULD HEAR MUFFLED VOICES COMING FROM THE COMMANDER'S ROOM...



LES OPENED THE DOOR. THERE WERE THREE STRANGERS IN THE ROOM AND ONE OF THEM HAD A KNIFE AT COMMANDER JONES' THROAT...





THE NEXT SECOND, JOE RATCLIFFE CAME THROUGH THE DOOR. DESPITE HIS AGE, HE DID NOT HESITATE...



JOE SENT ONE MAN CRASHING ACROSS THE ROOM - THEN HE TURNED TO THE BED...



THE MAN WITH THE KNIFE STRUCK OUT VICIOUSLY AND FOUND HIS WRIST  
CAUGHT IN A VICE-LIKE GRIP...



SUDDENLY THE INTRUDERS MADE A RUSH FOR THE WINDOW THAT LED INTO  
THE GROUNDS...

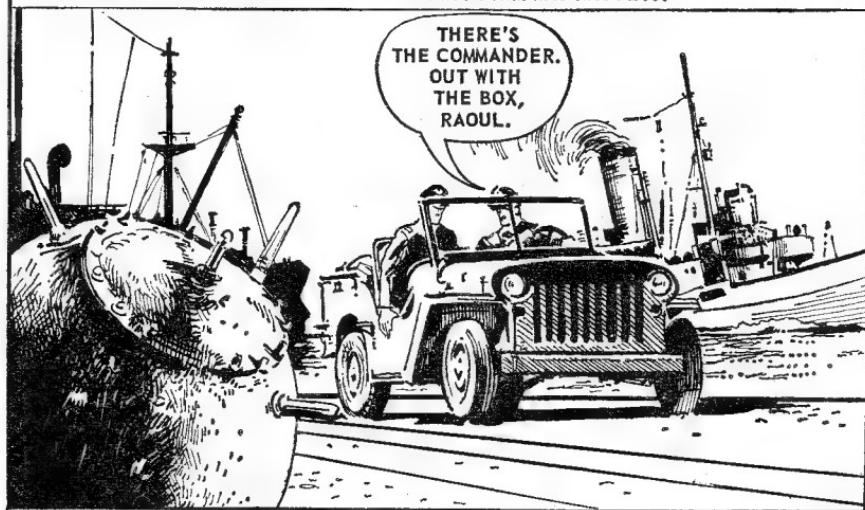




"IT HAD BEEN HARD, EXHAUSTING AND DANGEROUS WORK. EVERY PORT HELD A STOCK OF SEA-MINES. EVERY ONE HAD TO BE DISMANTLED..."



"YOU'D JUST LEFT FOR THE STORES, JOE, WHEN A JEEP CAME ALONG THE DOCK,  
DRIVEN BY LIEUTENANT MCKAY. THE MAN WITH HIM WAS RAOUL..."



"McKAY AND THE BELGIAN LIFTED A HEAVY SQUARE BOX OUT OF THE BACK OF THE JEEP."

GOT TO HIDE THIS QUICK, RAOUL, UNTIL WE CAN GET IT OUT. IT'S A GOLD-MINE.



"McKAY DUMPED THE BOX DOWN AND EXPLAINED . . ."

I'VE BEEN DISMANTLING GERMAN MINES, SIR. IN EVERY ONE IS A TUBE OF PURE MERCURY. WE'VE KEPT THE LOT! IT'S WORTH THOUSANDS ON THE BLACK MARKET...



YOU DID WHAT? THAT'S ASKING FOR TROUBLE!

I'VE GOT TROUBLE ALL RIGHT. WE TRIED TO DO A DEAL, BUT THE MILITARY POLICE GOT WIND OF IT. THEY'RE ON OUR TRAIL RIGHT NOW! I NEED YOUR HELP, COMMANDER!



"I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND AT FIRST WHY  
McKAY HAD COME TO ME..."

BUT I'M YOUR SENIOR  
OFFICER. I COULD PLACE  
YOU IN IRONS!

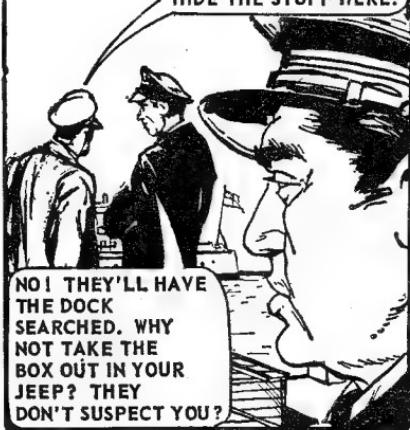


BUT YOU OWE ME A FAVOUR. REMEMBER  
THAT AERIAL MINE IN THE THAMES  
- WHEN YOU GOT TRAPPED IN THE MUD?

"I REMEMBERED! McKAY HAD PULLED  
ME CLEAR BEFORE THE MINE EXPLODED.  
HE HAD SAVED MY LIFE. I DID OWE HIM  
A DEBT..."

ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN  
HIDE THE STUFF HERE.

NO! THEY'LL HAVE  
THE DOCK  
SEARCHED. WHY  
NOT TAKE THE  
BOX OUT IN YOUR  
JEEP? THEY  
DON'T SUSPECT YOU?



"I FELT THIS WAS ASKING TOO MUCH. BUT THE MILITARY POLICE CHOSE THAT  
MOMENT TO DRIVE UP. THERE WAS NO TIME TO ARGUE..."

THE REDCAPS!  
WHERE'S YOUR JEEP,  
SIR? HURRY!

I COULD  
BREAK YOUR  
NECK FOR THIS!  
IT'S OVER THERE  
- BACK OF THE  
SHED.



"IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO HIDE THE CASE UNDER OUR TOOL CHEST..."

I'LL LAY A FALSE TRAIL  
AND LET 'EM SEARCH US. YOU  
TAKE THE BRUGES ROAD, SIR.  
CATCH YOU UP LATER.

IF IT HADN'T  
BEEN FOR THAT MINE,  
McKAY — I'D HAND YOU  
OVER RIGHT NOW!



"I FOUND OUT AFTERWARDS, JOE, THAT IT WAS ABOUT THAT TIME THAT YOU TRIED  
TO FIND ME..."

WHERE THE  
DICKENS IS THE  
COMMANDER?

TIENS!  
I DO NOT KNOW!  
WE'VE FOUND A  
MINE IN THE  
WATER!



"BUT BY THEN I WAS ALREADY LEAVING THE DOCKYARD AND GETTING DEEPER INTO TROUBLE..."

EXCUSE ME, SIR. WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NAVY JEEP LIKE THAT. TWO MEN WITH IT, ONE IS A NAVY LIEUTENANT, THE OTHER A BELGIAN PETTY-OFFICER.

HAVEN'T SEEN IT. NOW, OUT OF MY WAY PLEASE. I'M IN A HURRY.



"THEY LET ME PASS, MUST HAVE BEEN MY RANK, I SUPPOSE. IT WAS ON THE BRUGES ROAD THAT McKAY AND RAOUL CAUGHT ME UP..."

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THEIR FACES! THEY EXPECTED TO FIND THE BOX OF LOOT STACKED AT THE BACK.

I HAD TO LIE MY WAY PAST. THIS MERCURY'S GOT TO BE HANDED OVER TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES, McKAY!



NOT LIKELY, COMMANDER! WE'RE HANGING ON TO IT. JUST FORGET THIS EVER HAPPENED, SIR. AND WE'LL CALL IT QUIT. YOU OWE ME NOTHING!



"THEN RAOUL SPOTTED A COUPLE OF JEEPS COMING UP FAST..."

THE MILITARY! THEY ARE COMING AFTER US! AND THERE IS AN OFFICER WITH THEM!



"THE PROVOST DEPARTMENT WAS NOT LETTING UP EASILY. THE PROVOST-MARSHAL COULD BALANCE RANK WITH A COMMANDER. THIS TIME I COULDN'T BLUFF MY WAY OUT..."

SORRY ABOUT THIS, COMMANDER,  
BUT MY MEN WILL HAVE TO SEARCH  
YOUR JEEP - JUST TO KEEP THE  
RECORD STRAIGHT.



"LATER, I COULD HAVE KICKED MYSELF FOR DOING IT. I'M STILL NOT SURE WHY I DID IT..."

SORRY, BRIGADIER.  
I DON'T LIKE BEING SEARCHED.  
COME ON, MCKAY!



PUT THOSE REVOLVERS DOWN,  
YOU FOOLS! GET AFTER THEM!



"WE DROVE THROUGH BRUGES AT BREAKNECK SPEED..."



"BUT THE PROVOST BOYS WERE HARD ON OUR HEELS. I COULD HEAR THE BRIGADIER YELLING LIKE FURY..."

KEEP THEM  
IN SIGHT I THAT  
MATELOT  
WON'T GET AWAY  
WITH THIS!



"LOOKING BACK, IT WAS A MIRACLE WE DIDN'T KILL ANYONE. I REMEMBER TWO INCIDENTS IN PARTICULAR..."

I'LL GET  
MY TICKET FOR  
THIS LARK!

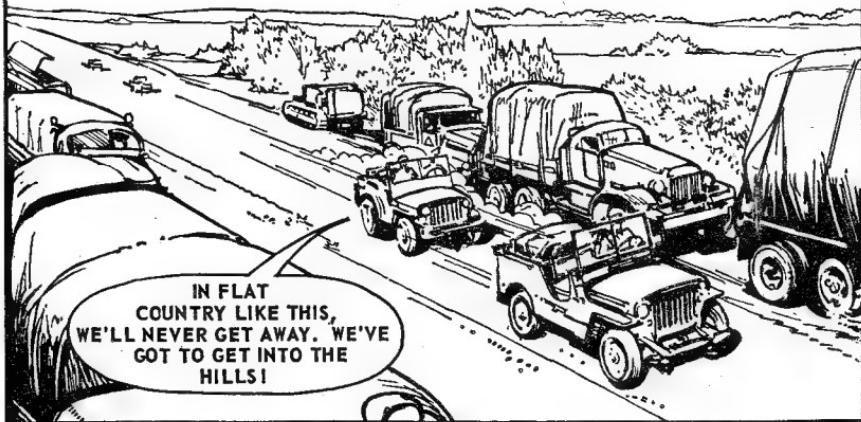


"IT WAS THE VEGETABLE CART THAT GAVE US OUR FIRST BREAK. THE M.P.s HAD TO SLOW RIGHT DOWN WHEN THEY REACHED IT..."

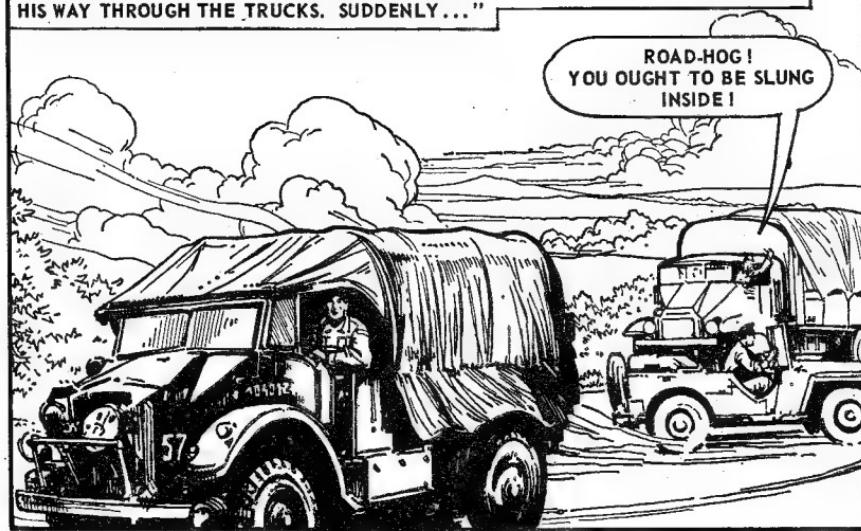
DOGS!  
MANIACS!



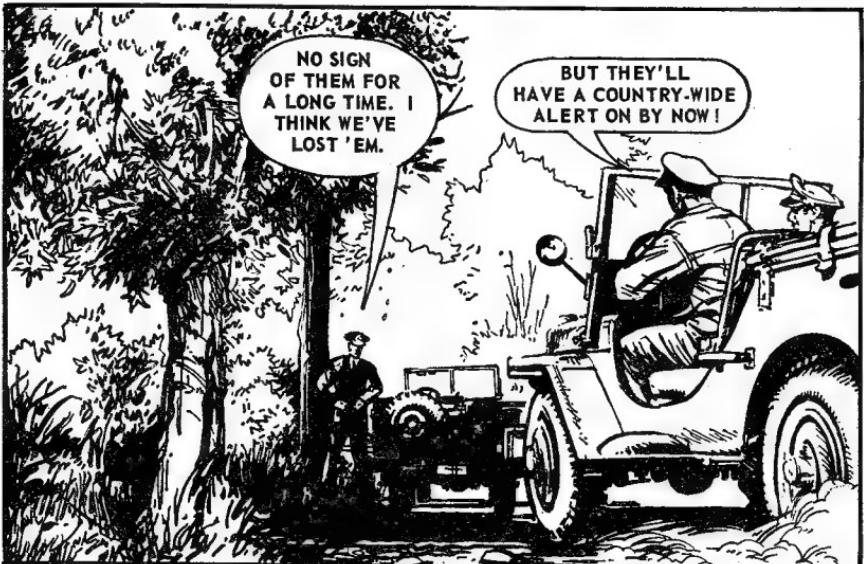
"SOON WE WERE THROUGH THE TOWN AND HEADING EAST ACROSS THE FLAT  
COUNTRYSIDE."

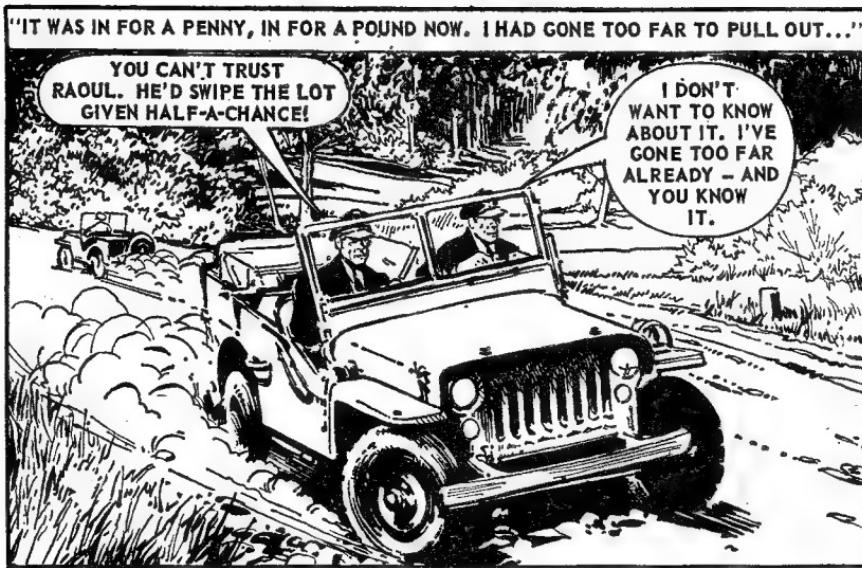


"THERE WAS A LOT OF HEAVY TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD. I SAW McKAY THREADING  
HIS WAY THROUGH THE TRUCKS. SUDDENLY..."



"THE DRIVER SWERVED AND ENDED UP WITH HIS FRONT WHEELS IN A DITCH. WHEN THE M.P. ARRIVED, THE ROAD WAS BLOCKED..."





"WE SAW IT SOON AFTERWARDS ON THE SKYLINE. THE ANCIENT WATCH-TOWER ON GUARD LIKE A GRENADIER..."

JUST THE SPOT, COMMANDER! THAT TOWER HAS BEEN THERE FOR CENTURIES. IT'LL BE HERE FOR ANOTHER MONTH OR TWO AND WILL BE EASY TO FIND AGAIN!



"INSIDE, THE OLD WALLS HAD ALREADY SEEN MUCH WEAR AND TEAR, YET THE STONES TOOK SOME DIGGING OUT."

WE'LL CACHE THE STUFF INSIDE HERE AND FACE UP THE HOLE AGAIN ALL TIDY AND SHIPSHAPE.



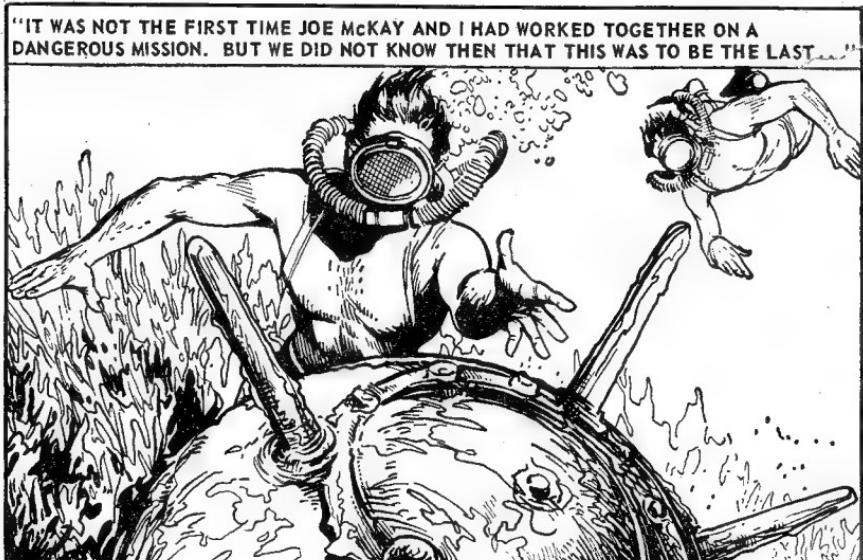
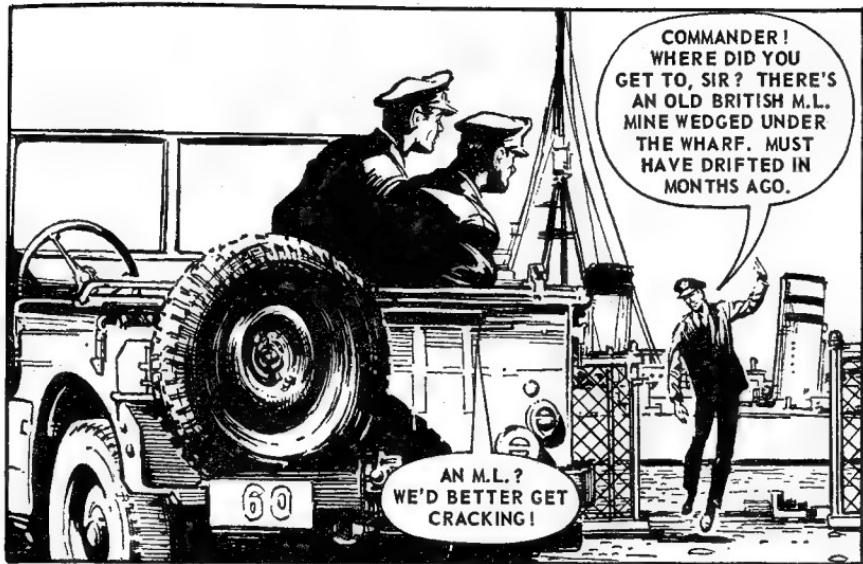
"WE HAD REACHED THE LOWER ROAD AND WERE HEADING FOR LIEGE, WHEN WE  
RAN INTO TROUBLE AGAIN..."



"BUT WHEN THEY STOPPED US, THEY DIDN'T EVEN MENTION THE STOLEN LOOT..."







"WE TRIED EVERYTHING TO FREE THE BARNACLE-ENCRUSTED MAIN DETONATOR-FUSE. BUT IT RESISTED ALL OUR EFFORTS."



"FINALLY, WE HAD TO GIVE UP. THERE WAS ONLY ONE COURSE LEFT OPEN TO US  
NOW..."





"McKAY, AS THE UNDERWATER MAN, HAD THE DEADLY JOB OF FIXING THE CABLES AND THEN STEERING THE MINE AWAY FROM THE PIER..."

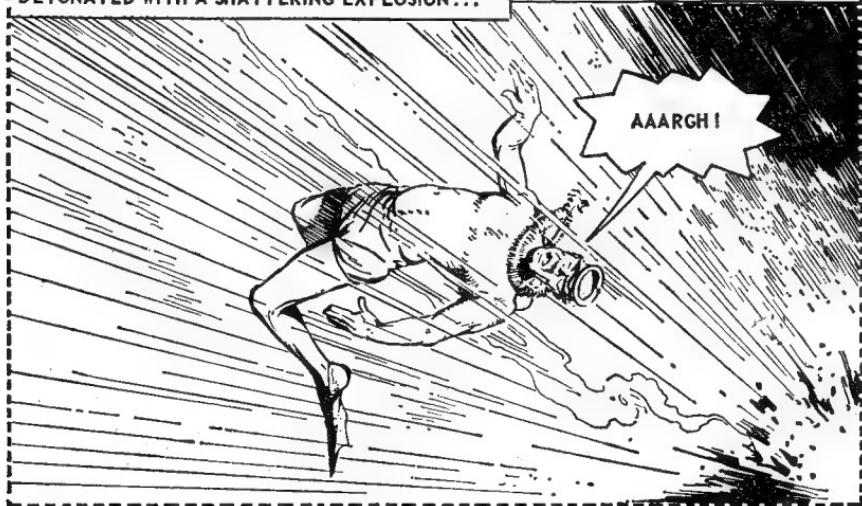


"SLOWLY IT CAME FREE AND FLOATED TO THE SURFACE..."

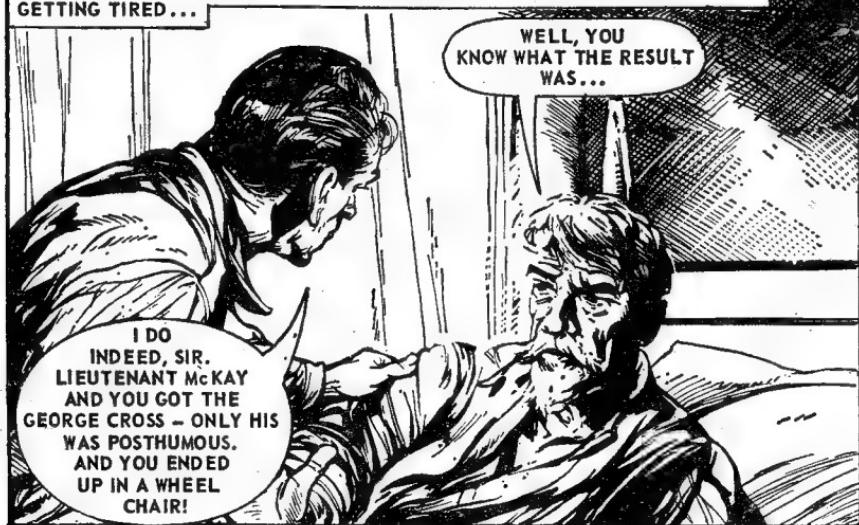
OKAY, COMMANDER. YOU  
CAN TAKE HER AWAY.

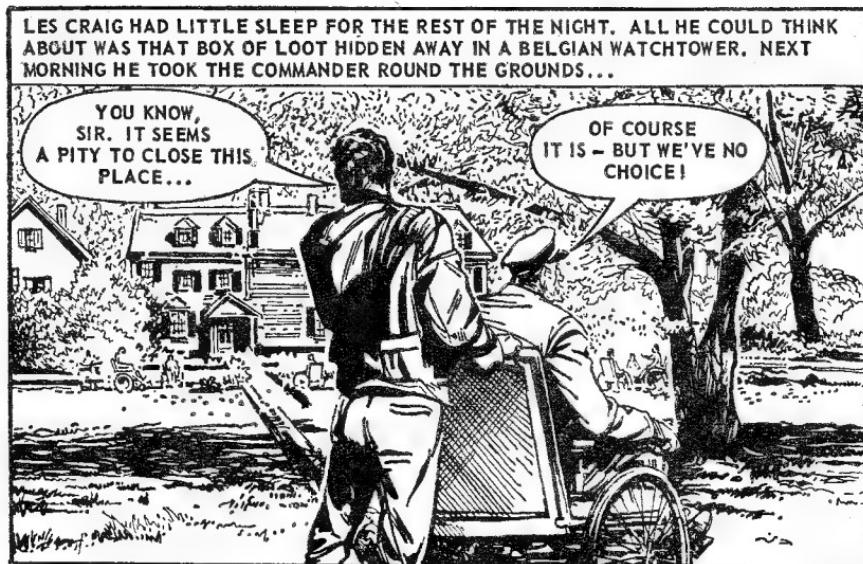
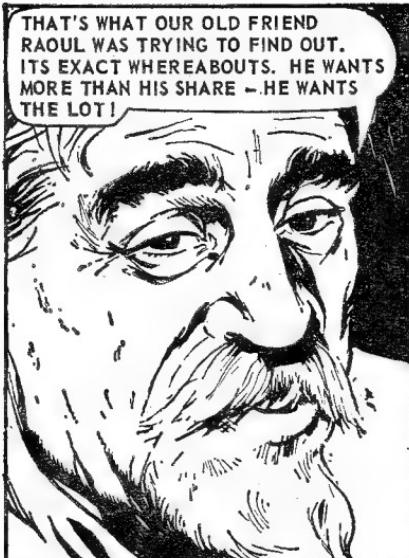


"WE HAD REACHED MID-CHANNEL WHEN IT HAPPENED. WITHOUT WARNING, THE MINE DETONATED WITH A SHATTERING EXPLOSION..."



COMMANDER JONES PAUSED. HE HAD TALKED FOR A LONG TIME AND HE WAS GETTING TIRED...









A WEEK LATER, A SPECIALLY-ADAPTED VAN ARRIVED AT ITS DESTINATION IN BELGIUM...



THE PEOPLE AT THE SIDEWALK CAFE WATCHED WITH INTEREST AS A SPECIAL RAMP LOWERED THE COMMANDER'S WHEELCHAIR ON TO THE ROAD ...



ONE MAN IN PARTICULAR TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF THE NEW ARRIVALS...



COMMANDER JONES HERE  
AT LAST! RAOUL, YOUR LUCK  
IS FINALLY CHANGING!



THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE VAN  
HEADED FOR THE MOUNTAINS - AND  
BEHIND IT, CAME A CAR WITH A  
LOAD OF TROUBLE...

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE, PIERRE.  
WE ARE TOO NEAR THE PRIZE  
NOW TO GET CARELESS !



AN HOUR LATER, COMMANDER JONES' VAN TURNED ON TO A NARROW TRACK THAT  
RAN ALONG THE BASE OF THE TOWER...



IT WAS A LONG HAUL OVER BROKEN GROUND TO THE TOWER, BUT THE COMMANDER  
HAD COME TOO FAR NOT TO BE IN AT THE FINISH...



IT WAS JUST AS HE REMEMBERED IT.  
THE WALL WAS UNDISTURBED,  
SHOWING THAT THE TOWER HAD  
KEPT ITS SECRET...

I THINK  
THAT'S THE SPOT,  
JUST THERE!

BUT AFTER TEN MINUTES HARD  
DIGGING AND GOUGING...

NOTHING, SKIPPER. YOU DON'T  
THINK IT'S BEEN LIFTED?

I DON'T KNOW. TRY  
A BIT TO THE LEFT.

THIS TIME THEY WERE IN LUCK...

BY JIMINY!  
IT'S HERE! I CAN  
SEE THE SIDE OF  
THE BOX!

THEN WHAT ARE  
YOU WAITING FOR?  
DIG IT OUT!

MINUTES LATER, THE BOX WAS FREE. WHEN HE SAW IT, ALL COMMANDER JONES' DOUBTS RETURNED ...

FOR TWO PINS I'D PUT IT BACK, LES. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH IT ANYWAY? HAWK IT AROUND THE FENCES AND SPIVS OF LONDON?



WE'LL FIND SOMEBODY WHO'LL BUY THE STUFF, SKIPPER! YOU WAIT! ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS GET IT BACK THROUGH CUSTOMS. THAT'LL BE THE HARDEST BIT ...

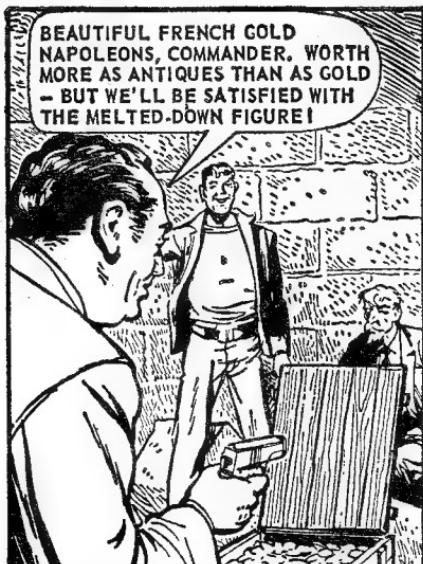




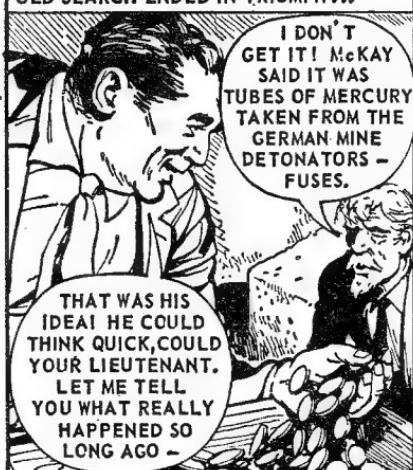
AT A WORD FROM RACUL, ONE OF THE MEN GRABBED A TYRE LEVER AND PRISED OPEN THE BOX LID. THE SIGHT THAT WAS REVEALED TOOK THEIR BREATH AWAY ...



BEAUTIFUL FRENCH GOLD NAPOLEONS, COMMANDER. WORTH MORE AS ANTIQUES THAN AS GOLD — BUT WE'LL BE SATISFIED WITH THE MELTED-DOWN FIGURE!



THE BELGIAN WAS ENJOYING HIMSELF. IT WAS A DREAM COME TRUE, A TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OLD SEARCH ENDED IN TRIUMPH ...



THE BELGIAN EX-PETTY OFFICER  
TOOK THEM BACK TO THAT WAR-  
SCARRED COASTLINE OF 1946...

YOU WILL REMEMBER  
THAT WHEN YOU WERE WORKING  
AT LICHTEN, MCKAY AND I  
WERE WORKING AS A  
SEPARATE TEAM FARTHER  
UP THE COAST...

"BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF AN EXPLOSION, WE HAD CHOSEN TO WORK AT NIGHT,  
WHEN THE DOCKYARD AND WHARVES WERE EMPTY OF MEN..."

AH, ANOTHER ONE!  
PURE MERCURY, LIEUTENANT.  
IT IS WORTH MUCH...

THAT MAY BE,  
BUT WE TURN IT IN,  
UNDERSTAND?



I'VE WORKED  
HARD FOR MY PENSION,  
RAOUL. I'M NOT  
RISKING IT FOR ONE  
SMALL DEAL ON THE  
BLACK-MARKET.

SO? YOU  
ARE IN COMMAND.  
BUT IT IS THROWING  
GOOD MONEY AWAY.  
WHO WOULD  
KNOW?



"WE CARRIED ON WORKING AND AT ABOUT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING WE HEARD THE SOUND OF OARS."

A BOAT? AT THIS TIME? WHO CAN IT BE?

I DON'T KNOW. KEEP OUT OF SIGHT. WE'LL SOON FIND OUT.



"THERE WERE TWO AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN THE BOAT WHEN IT REACHED THE JETTY ..."

STEADY WITH IT! FOR PETE'S SAKE DON'T SINK IT NOW!

YOU BETCHA LIFE!



SHOVE IT OUT OF SIGHT SOMEWHERE UNTIL WE GET RID OF THE BOAT.

OKAY.



"THE AMERICANS HID THEIR BOX RIGHT AT OUR FEET. WHEN THEY WENT BACK TO THEIR BOAT, McKAY AND I TOOK A LOOK INSIDE THE BOX..."



"I COULD SEE FROM YOUR LIEUTENANT'S EYES THAT HE WAS THINKING ALONG THE SAME LINES AS MYSELF..."

WITH THIS BOX OF WEALTH, YOU COULD FORGET YOUR PENSION! MERCURY TUBES ARE CHICKEN- FEED COMPARED TO WHAT WE HAVE HERE!

AND THOSE TWO YANKS HAVE LIFTED IT FROM SOME GERMAN WHO HAD LOOTED IT FIRST!

"IT WAS THE TEMPTATION OF A LIFE-TIME..."

THOSE YANKS, ARE PROBABLY ON THE RUN ANYWAY!

NOW YOU TALK GOOD SENSE, M'SIEUR! WHY HAVE PITY FOR TWO THIEVES ON THE RUN?



"WHEN THE AMERICANS CAME BACK FOR THE GOLD WE WERE READY FOR THEM..."

HEY,  
HOLD IT,  
FELLER -

YOU HOLD IT!  
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DID  
YOU COME FROM?



AN OFFICER! I DIDN'T  
SEE YOU, SIR. WE'RE AMERICAN  
SERVICEMEN. KINDA CARRYING STORES  
FOR THE OUTFIT...

WE'VE LOOKED IN  
THE BOX! YOU USE  
FUNNY STORES...



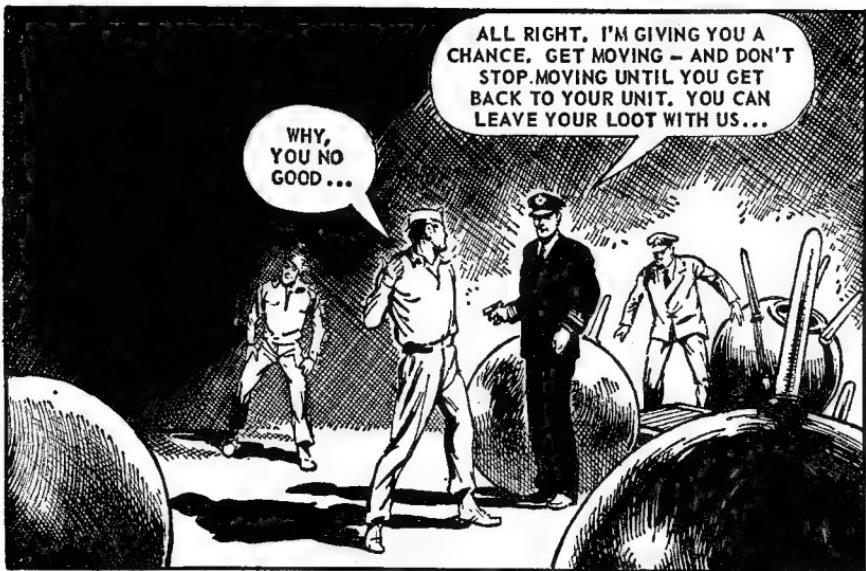
"ONE OF THE YANKS REALISED THAT THEIR  
'GAME' HAD BEEN DISCOVERED..."

WE LIFTED 'EM  
FROM SOME LOUSY KRAUT  
WHO WAS TRYING TO GET  
'EM BACK TO GERMANY.  
THEY'RE OURS, MISTER,  
OURS!



WHY,  
YOU NO  
GOOD ...

ALL RIGHT, I'M GIVING YOU A  
CHANCE, GET MOVING - AND DON'T  
STOP MOVING UNTIL YOU GET  
BACK TO YOUR UNIT. YOU CAN  
LEAVE YOUR LOOT WITH US...



"AS THE TRUTH SUNK IN, THE AMERICANS WENT BERSERK..."

NO-ONE'S  
GOING TO TWO-TIME  
ME AFTER ALL I'VE  
GONE THROUGH!

UGH!





"McKAY SOON DEALT WITH HIS MAN, BUT I WAS IN TROUBLE..."



"LUCKILY, Mc KAY SAW THE GUN  
IN THE AMERICAN'S HAND ..."

AAARGH !



"Mc KAY WAS WALKING AWAY IN A DAZE WHEN THE OTHER AMERICAN CAME ROUND.  
THE ENGLISHMAN TURNED WHEN HE HEARD MY SHOT ..."

WHAT THE ? RAOUl I  
ISN'T KILLING ONE OF  
THEM ENOUGH?

HE WAS  
REGAINING  
CONSCIOUSNESS.  
IT IS BETTER  
THIS WAY. NOW  
THERE ARE NO  
WITNESSES.



"THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK NOW. WE WEIGHTED THE BODIES AND SLID THEM OFF THE WHARF. THEN, AS WE WERE LOADING THE BOX INTO OUR JEEP..."

HALT! THIS IS A  
PROVOST-MARSHAL'S PATROL BOAT.  
DO NOT MOVE!



OF COURSE WE DID MOVE —  
AND FAST! BUT THEY THREW  
A CORDON AROUND THE TOWN.  
IT WAS THEN THAT MCKAY  
DECIDED TO COME TO YOU  
FOR HELP, COMMANDER...



...WITH THAT STORY  
ABOUT THE MERCURY!

YES, HE GUESSED  
A BOX-FULL OF GOLD  
COINS WOULD BE TOO  
DISHONEST FOR YOU. BUT A FEW  
TUBES OF MERCURY?

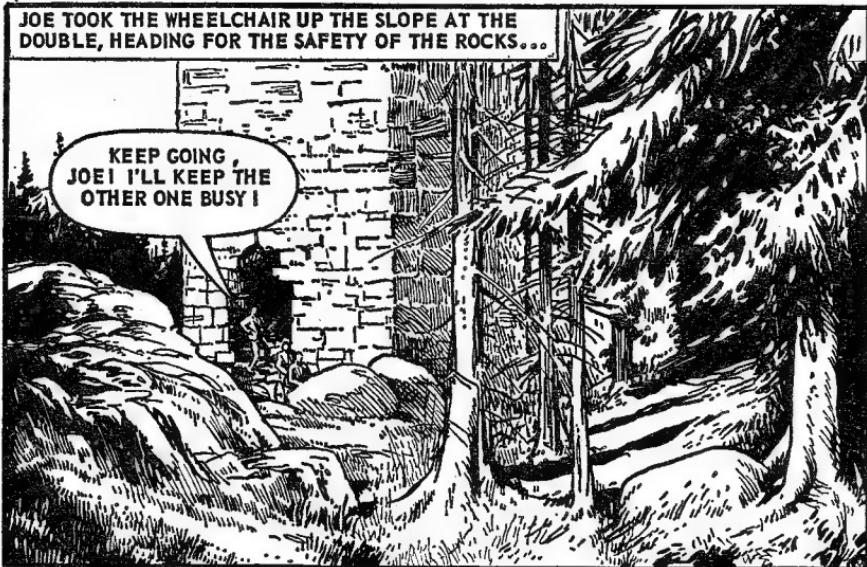




LES GRABBED THE GUN WHILE JOE RATCLIFFE TOOK CARE OF ONE OF THE OTHER BELGIANS...



JOE TOOK THE WHEELCHAIR UP THE SLOPE AT THE DOUBLE, HEADING FOR THE SAFETY OF THE ROCKS...



LES HAD GAINED THE PROTECTION OF THE ROCKS WHEN ONE OF THE BELGIANS APPEARED IN THE ENTRANCE TO THE TOWER...

OH, NO! THE MAGAZINE'S EMPTY!

M'SIEURS - THE GAME IS UP! YOU WILL COME OUT - OR I WILL KILL YOU, ONE BY ONE!



BUT LES CRAIG WAS NOT BEATEN YET. THE ROCK HE WAS HIDING BEHIND WAS BALANCED ON A KNIFE-EDGE. HE PUT HIS SHOULDER TO IT AND HEAVED WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH...

MON DIEU!



THE ROCK MUST HAVE STRUCK DEAD AGAINST THE WEAKENED PART OF THE WALL. THE ANCIENT TOWER WHICH HAD STOOD SO LONG REELED UNDER THE IMPACT AND WITH A DULL RUMBLE IT SLOWLY COLLAPSED...

AAARGH!

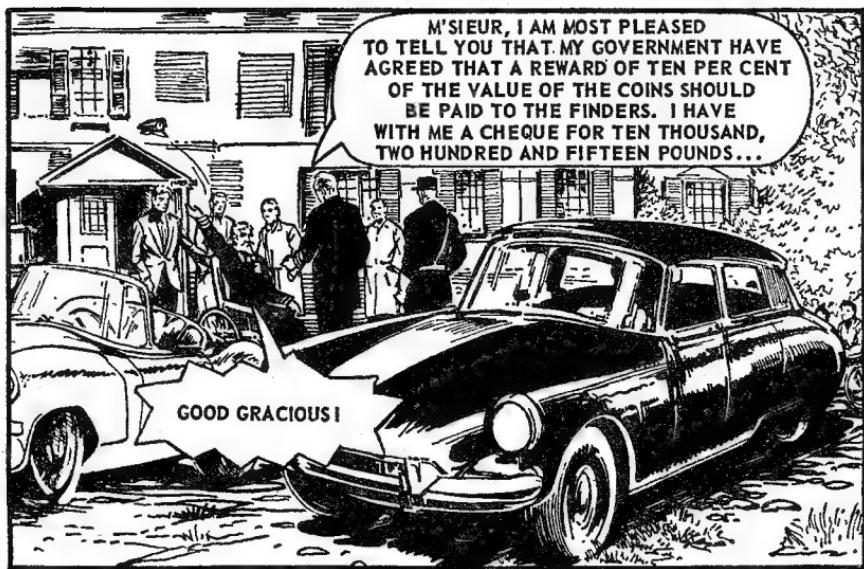


THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE NOW. YET THE COMMANDER WAS DETERMINED TO KEEP THE NAME OF JOE MCKAY OUT OF ALL ENQUIRIES, AND IT WAS NOT QUITE THE FULL STORY HE TOLD TO THE AUTHORITIES.

WE WERE AT A DISTANCE WHEN WE SAW THE TOWER COLLAPSE. ON REACHING IT, WE FOUND THE BODIES OF THREE MEN - AND ALSO THE BOX. FROM ITS APPEARANCE, IT WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN HIDDEN IN THE WALLS OF THE TOWER. I HAND IT OVER INTACT.

REST ASSURED  
WE SHALL TRACE THE OWNERS OF A FABULOUS HOARD LIKE THIS!

A WEEK LATER, THE COMMANDER WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF WINDING UP THE HOME, WHEN HE HAD AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR...



THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL DID NOT GET A CHANCE  
TO SAY ANY MORE BEFORE PANDEMOMIUM BROKE OUT...

WHAT HAVE I  
DONE? EVERYONE HAS  
GONE MAD!

EVERYBODY  
BACK TO QUARTERS!  
WE WANTED A  
MIRACLE AND WE'VE  
GOT ONE!

HURRAY!

# THE TIGER

THE HUGE BEAST CAME OUT OF THE JUNGLE AT A LOPING RUN, ITS BRIGHT EYES SEEKING A VICTIM...

AIEE!  
TIGER! TIGER!



A TIGER WAS NO STRANGE SIGHT FOR THE NATIVES OF BENGAL IN INDIA. BUT THIS ONE THEY FEARED MORE THAN OTHERS, FOR HIS PREY WAS MAN...

AAAGH!



THAT SAME BEAST KILLED AGAIN TWO DAYS LATER - AND THAT BROUGHT DUNCAN EDWARDS TO THE VILLAGE...

INSPECTOR RANJI IS EXPECTING ME...

YES, SIR.

AH! MISTER EDWARDS, GOOD OF YOU TO COME SO QUICKLY...

THAT'S OKAY, INSPECTOR. TELL ME ABOUT THIS KILLER-CAT...

DUNCAN EDWARDS WAS A HUNTER, A MAN EXPERIENCED IN THE WAYS OF INDIA'S MOST DANGEROUS BEAST OF PREY.

I'D LIKE YOU TO SHOW ME AROUND THE VILLAGE TOMORROW, INSPECTOR...

CERTAINLY, MISTER EDWARDS!

THE VILLAGERS WERE JUST MOVING OUT INTO THE FIELDS WHEN EDWARDS' VEHICLE DROVE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

WE HAVE PLENTY OF JUNGLE AROUND HERE, AS YOU CAN SEE, IT IS EASY FOR THE TIGER TO HIDE...

AND FOR ME ALSO, INSPECTOR. IT EVEN'S UP THE ODDS JUST A LITTLE!

EDWARDS SPOKE TO THE VILLAGE HEADMAN...

I'D LIKE SOME MEN TO HELP ME BUILD A 'HIDE' IN THE JUNGLE. CAN YOU ARRANGE IT, PLEASE?

I AM SORRY, SAHIB. THE MEN WILL NOT FOLLOW YOU INTO THE TIGER'S LAIR.

EDWARDS ARGUED, BUT IN VAIN.

WHAT'S GOING ON, INSPECTOR? THAT OLD MAN'S SCARED OF SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST A TIGER!

PERICAPS I SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU. THE VILLAGERS BELIEVE THE BEAST IS A MAN-TIGER - A MAN WHO CAN CHANGE INTO A TIGER!



A FEW SECONDS LATER, EDWARDS HEARD THE SOFT DEEP GROWL OF THE TIGER,  
AS IT GOT THE SCENT ...



EDWARDS CRADLED THE RIFLE IN HIS HANDS,  
HIS EYES STRAINING TO PENETRATE THE  
SHADOWS AT THE JUNGLE'S EDGE...



PATIENTLY, HE WAITED FOR THE  
TIGER TO PAD OUT INTO THE  
MOONLIGHT ...



HIS FINGER WAS SQUEEZING THE TRIGGER WHEN A CLOUD SCURRIED ACROSS THE FACE OF THE MOON. HE WAS NOW COMMITTED TO THE SHOT!



THE GREAT BEAST GAVE A ROAR OF PAIN.  
EDWARDS SWIFTLY WORKED THE BOLT OF  
HIS RIFLE AND LOOSED OFF ANOTHER  
ROUND...



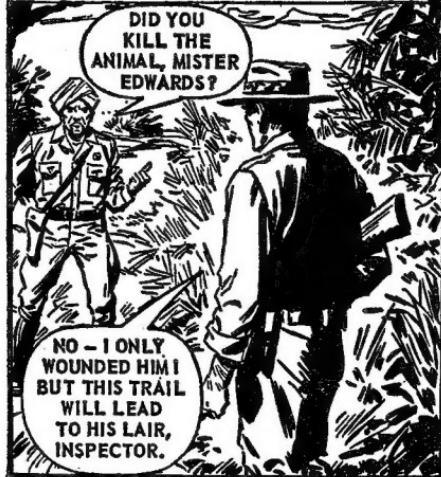
THE TIGER THRASHED AWAY INTO THE  
JUNGLE — AND THE HUNTER WAS TOO  
EXPERIENCED TO RISK FOLLOWING IT...



AT FIRST LIGHT, EDWARDS HAD NO TROUBLE FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF HIS QUARRY...



TO HIS SURPRISE, THE TRAIL MOVED ON TO A WELL-TRODEN TRACK THAT LED OUT OF THE JUNGLE. HE HAD NOT GONE MUCH FARTHER WHEN A FAMILIAR FIGURE CONFRONTED HIM...



I FEAR NOT, MISTER EDWARDS. THIS PATH LEADS TO THE VILLAGE. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME...



THEY ADVANCED INTO THE VILLAGE IN SILENCE, AND THE INSPECTOR STOPPED OUTSIDE ONE OF THE HOUSES...

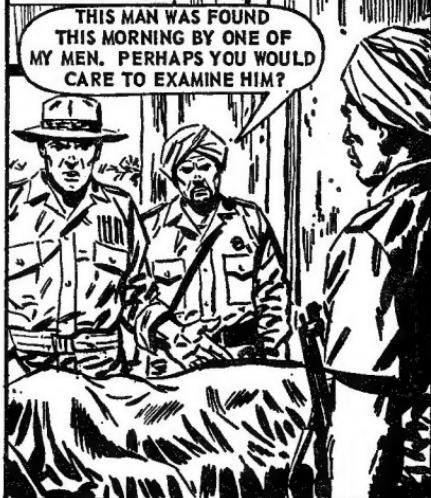
IN HERE,  
PLEASE, MISTER  
EDWARDS.

WHAT  
IS THIS,  
INSPECTOR?  
SOME KIND OF  
GAME?



THERE WAS A MAN LYING ON THE BED INSIDE. HE WAS COVERED BY A SHEET AND HE WAS DEAD...

THIS MAN WAS FOUND THIS MORNING BY ONE OF MY MEN. PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE TO EXAMINE HIM?



EDWARDS LIFTED THE SHEET. HE SAW A BULLET WOUND THAT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN MADE BY A BULLET FROM A GUN SUCH AS HIS...

BUT THIS IS MADNESS! I SHOT A TIGER OUT THERE LAST NIGHT, INSPECTOR!



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*Tough...Dramatic...*

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